

alignment pattern on the first substrate engages the alignment pattern on the second substrate,

wherein the alignment patterns have a sectional shape of one of a triangular shape, a trapezoidal shape and a semi-circular shape.

20. A diffractive optical element, comprising:

a diffraction grating portion which includes first and second diffraction gratings, with said first diffraction grating and an alignment pattern being formed on a first substrate and second diffraction grating and an alignment pattern being formed on a second substrate, the first and second substrates being accumulated with a space therebetween, and said first and second diffraction gratings being positioned so that the alignment pattern on the first substrate engages the alignment pattern on the second substrate,

wherein the alignment patterns have a sectional shape of one of a triangular shape, a trapezoidal shape and a semi-circular shape, and wherein the alignment patterns are formed outside optically effective regions of said first and second diffraction gratings.--

REMARKS


Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 19 and 20 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 9 and 10, and added new Claims 15-20. Claims 1-14 are allowed. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to depend from new Claims 15-20.

Claims 15-20 have not previously been considered in this application.

Applicants' request favorable consideration thereof and early passage to issue of this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: 684.2902
Application No.: 2009/401,660
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**

9. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a diffractive optical element as recited in any one of Claims 1-4, [7 and 8] 7, 8 and 15-20, characterized by a process for fitting the alignment patterns of the first and second substrates together.

10. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a diffractive optical element as recited in any one of Claims 1-4, [7 and 8] 7, 8 and 15-20, characterized by a process in which, after the first substrate is formed, the second substrate is formed by use of a mold, wherein the alignment pattern of the first substrate is fitted into the alignment pattern of the second substrate formed on the mold for the second substrate, whereby the first and second substrates are mutually positioned and molding of the second substrate is performed.